

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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O R 182150Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0205
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1414

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG PFOR GW CU BR
SUBJECT:FOREIGN MINISTER ON NUCLEAR ACCORD AND CUBAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD PRESS FEB 17 BRAZIL HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT THAT US WOULD USE ALL DIPLOMATIC MEANS AT HAND TO HALT THE FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD. HE REITERATED BRAZIL WOULD ONLY DISCUSS "GLOBAL ASPECTS OF NON-PROLEFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS", NUCLEAR ACCORD WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED BECAUSE IT IS ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. HE REASSURED PRESS THAT FRG USG BILATERAL TALKS HAD NOT CHANGED ACCORD AND GAVE NUCLEBRAS PRESIDENT BATISTA A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. FOREIGN MINISTER DECLINED TO SPECULATE ONPOSSIBLE NORMALIZATION OF USG-CUBAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. REFERRING TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S FEB 16 STATEMENT, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIROA TOLD THE PRESS IN BRASILIA FEB 17 "BRAZIL HAD NOTHING TO FEAR AND WE ARE NOT AFRAID . THE US IS A POWERFUL
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COUNTRY, BUT BRAZIL IS A SOVEREIGN NTION THAT WILL DEFEND ITS INTEREST." SILVEIARA ADDED THAT "THE PRESSURE WILL GET NOWHERE."

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT "BRAZIL IS NOT NEGOTIATING AND IS NOT GOING TO NEGOTIATE THE NUCLEAR ACCORD WHICH IT SIGNED WITH THE FRG." HE REITERATED BRAZIL WOULD ONLY

AGREE TO DEBATE THE "GLOBAL ASPECTS OF THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS." SILVEIRA STRESSED THE ASPECTS WOULD NOT INCLUDE THE NUCLEAR ACCORD BECAUSE IT HAS ONLY PEACEFUL PURPOSES. HE NOTED THAT BRAZIL HAD NOT TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN DISCUSSING PROLIFERATION BUT HAD NO REASON TO AVOID IT. "IF THEY (READ: US) WANT TO TALK, WE WILL TALK," HE SAID.

4. SILVEIRA ALSO NOTED THAT ONE OF "THE CONFLICTING POINTS OF THE NUCLEAR DEBATE" IS THE REFUSAL OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO GIVE UP NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO THE LESSER DEVELOPED NATIONS. HE SAID THE NPT HAD CALLED FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THOSE NATIONS THAT HAD NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND THOSE THAT DID NOT HAVE IT. FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDED, "BUT THIS, AS YOU ARE ABLE TO PERCEIVE, HAS NOT COME TO PASS."

5. SILVEIRA ALSO ASSURED PRESS THAT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN US AND FRG HAD NOT BROUGHT ABOUT ANY CHANGES IN THE ACCORD. HE FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE ACCORD WHILE STILL NOT JURIDICALLY SAFEGUARD CLAUSES REQUIRED BY THE IAEA.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER WAS QUOTED BY PRESS AS STATING HE WOULD RECEIVE ANY EMISSARY FROM PRESIDENT CARTER BUT EMPHASIZED THAT "THE NUCLEAR ACCORD WILL NOT BE FOR DISCUSSION." PRESS NOTED HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHEN EMISSARY WOULD COME TO BRAZIL.

7. QUERIED ABOUT NUCLEBRAS PRESIDENT PAULO NOGUEIRA BATISTA'S COMMENT REGARDING "AMATEURISH AMERICAN DIPLOMACY" SILVEIRA REFUSED TO PASS JUDGEMENT, BUT MADE CONFIDENTIAL

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CLEAR THERE WAS NO DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN HIMSELF AND BATISTA. A PRESS REPORT HAD SUGGESTED THERE WAS BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THEM.) SILVEIRA GAVE NUCLEBRAS PRESIDENT A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, LAMENTING THAT FORMER CHIEF OF ITAMARATY'S ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT HAD LEFT FOR NUCLEBRAS WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO BE PROMOTED TO AMBASSADOR. HE NOTED THAT BATISTA STILL MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

8. LASTLY, ASKED ABOUT EFFECTS OF THE NORMALIZATION OF US-CUBA RELATIONS ON BRAZILIAN POLICY TOWARDS CUBA, FOREIGN MINISTER MADE TWO POINTS: (A) BRAZIL DOES NOT HAVE AUTOMATIC ALIGNMENTS WITH ANY STATE AND (B) "THIS IS NOT THE BEST HOUR TO SPEAK ABOUT THE SUBJECT." O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO SAW FIRST PART OF SILVEIRA'S RESPONSE AS A REFERENCE DIRECTED AT THE US TO MEAN THAT AN EVENTUAL REAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN GOB AND CUBA SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS A STAND AGAINST THE US POSITION.

9. COMMENT: IN HIS COMMENTS SILVEIRA HAS FOR THE

FIRST TIME PUBLICLY REFORMULATED WHAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BRAZIL AS A TOPIC IN ITS DISCUSSIONS OF THE NUCLEAR QUESTION WITH THE US, MAKING IT MORE RESTRICTIVE. UNTIL NOW THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S STATEMENTS HAVE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS "GLOBAL ASPECTS OF NON-PROLIFERATION" WITHOUT ADDING QUALIFYING PHRASE "OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." IF SILVEIRA'S REVISED FORMULATION WERE ADHERED TO RIGOROUSLY,

IT WOULD EXCLUDE AS A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF CAPACITY TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR THE SPREAD OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY AND SHIFT THE FOCUS OF THE DISCUSSION TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE US AND OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES TO CURB "CERTAIN PROLIFERATION."
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